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Esgobaeth Mynwy

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Diocese of Monmouth



This email has been sent to all Clergy, PTOs, Churchwardens, Secretaries, Treasurers and all those on our weekly email list.

News



Ministry Area Team Day 2023

An inspirational afternoon was held after our Spring Conference to consider how we can develop our ministry area life.

The session began with a lively, and thought-provoking address from the Rt Revd John Lomas, Bishop of Swansea who talked about '**Moving at the Speed of God**'. With personal examples of where he was out of step during his military days, to a time when he very much felt "*the internal rhythm that God sets within us*" his talk reminds us all of the power of being in the right place, at the right time.



He says: "*How many articles have you seen in the newspapers, Church Times, or whatever else, that say by the year 2033 there will be nobody left in the Church of Wales, or the Church of England, because that is the point in decline where we hit the bottom line and that it's all over?*"

"It's not true, it never has been true and it never will be true, and all we have to do, I believe, as a church, is to move into that place where God acts and to hit that mark at

the right time, in the right frame of mind, with the equipment to carry out the job that He has told us to do. In the right frame of mind that we can love each other as we love ourselves and we can be a team that works together.”

You can watch the full address [here](#).

The session was then lead by the Ven Stella Bailey, Archdeacon of the Gwent Valleys and Director of Mission, with discussions with representatives from each of our 16 ministry areas and our cathedral.

Archdeacon Stella, said: *“Bishop John offered some outstanding input into what it looks like to walk at the pace of God.*

“We are at a significant point in the shaping of our ministry areas where we are setting up our processes and ethos around what it means to join God in mission together - that holds the balance between the strength of unity, and engagement with the local.

“Ethos setting does not happen overnight, but requires us to think, pray and plan together so that good habits and relationships of trust are formed.

“It was good to have time to listen to each other in talking about the health of our churches.”

Archdeacon Stella, along with the Ven Ian Rees, Director of Ministry, are both keen to join others on their journey of development and recommend three courses that they could use as tools of support.

- **PCC Tonight** is a CPAS course around the role and responsibilities of our ministry area council's and how they can be places where God's mission becomes the start of our conversation.
- **Leading your Church into Growth (LyCIG)** is a course that helps a church set a culture that enables growth principles to be part of its DNA as people are equipped and motivated to play their part.
- **Faith in our Future Planning** is a process to journey with a ministry area into evaluating their shared life and activities and to let go of that which is potentially no longer fruitful, and seek new ways in reaching our communities in a contextual way.

Please get in touch with either Stella or Ian to explore your needs and how they might be able to walk with you in laying the solid foundations for the future.

Stella Bailey - archdeacon.gwentvalleys@churchinwales.org.uk

Ian Rees - archdeacon.monmouth@churchinwales.org.uk

A Rocha Eco Church Award

Newport Cathedral is delighted to have joined the ever growing number of churches from across the diocese which been awarded an *A Rocha Eco Church Award*. Informed by the diocesan vision, the cathedral is committed to ensuring that striving to care for the integrity of God's creation is culturally embedded in its life and witness, and hopes to be in a position later in the year to apply for a silver award. Do keep an eye out for further eco initiatives!

Metal Theft

Metal theft has become, as we are well aware, an escalating national crime problem. Churches in particular are popular targets for thieves, containing as they often do large amounts of metal such as lead and copper. The police advise that there have been at least 9 incidents involving theft of lead from church roofs in Gwent in the last 12 months.

Under the Heritage Watch Scheme any reports of Heritage Crime are followed up with contact from the Rural Crime Team and free Smartwater packs and deterrent signage are provided to those that wish to participate. This service by the dedicated team also serves to provide participants with a point of contact should any further issues or concerns arise.

The police are keen for the opportunity to participate in Heritage Watch to be extended to all churches not only within Gwent, but across Wales as a whole. For any more details or clarification on any of this John Pavett, a local church warden in the North Monmouthshire MA, is happy to be contacted on johnpavett@aol.com.

Please see the following document for more information: [Metal Theft](#)

Lost Property after Spring Conference

A glasses case (with glasses included) was left behind at St Teilo's High School on Saturday 11th March. If they're yours, please contact the Diocesan Office on **01633 267490**.

Training & Events



Last Chance to Book: Chrism Mass

Our Chrism Mass this year will take place, once again, on the Tuesday of Holy Week, **4th April, at 11am in Newport Cathedral.**


This is an extraordinarily beautiful service at which the sacred oils are blessed – the oil of the sick, the oil of the catechumens and the holy chrism oil – and ministers of Word and Sacrament, together with the people of God, gather together around the Lord's Table to reaffirm our commitment to the ministries entrusted to us.

It would be very helpful if you would contact the Bishop's PA, Vicki, at monbishpa@churchinwales.org.uk and confirm:

- that you will be attending
- whether you will be robing (ie and sit together with other priests, deacons and LLMs)
- whether you intend to stay for lunch and, if so
- whether you have any dietary requirements


Please get in touch with this information by **24th March at the latest** so that there is time to organise seating and the buffet.

3RD MAY, 7PM
IN THE DIOCESAN OFFICE



SPEAKER:
REVD JAMES HENLEY

LEADING
SMALL
GROUPS



TO BOOK A PLACE,
PLEASE EMAIL: ADMIN.MONMOUTH@CINW.ORG.UK

Training for Leading Small Groups

We are pleased to be able to offer some training for those involved in leading small groups. This is happening on **Wednesday 3rd May, at 7pm** in the Diocesan Office (64 Caerau Road, Newport).

If you're currently leading, or are interested in finding out more about leading a small group in your church, please come along. Spaces are limited so we would encourage people to book on quickly.

This course is open to everyone, both laity and clergy. However, we hope this training especially enables and encourages our laity to have more opportunities to lead.

To book a place, please contact admin.monmouth@cinw.org.uk



St Woolos Patronal Festival

All are welcome to the Patronal Festival Choral Eucharist, on Wednesday 29th March, 7.30pm at Newport Cathedral. If you wish to robe you are welcome to do so - dress will be white alb and stole. Refreshments are provided afterwards.

To RSVP, please email Luisse.Bannister@newportcathedral.org.uk by **Friday 24th March**.



The Big Help Out

The Big Help Out is a festival of volunteering on the Coronation Bank Holiday, **Monday 8th May**, in tribute to HM The King's lifetime of public service. Building on the volunteer phenomenon seen during the pandemic, the campaign aims to make it easy for volunteers to recognise opportunities and get involved.

Given the importance of faith communities as sources of volunteering and charitable work in the UK and The King's longstanding commitment to promoting inter-faith collaboration, it is hoped we will play a significant role in The Big Help Out.

Archbishop Andrew John says, *"There's a secret volunteers have that not many people know and it's this: when you give freely, you always get more back in return. That's why volunteering is such an amazing gift to celebrate, why giving is such an important part of our Christian faith and why The Big Help Out festival is the perfect way to mark our King's Coronation."*

The Archbishop would like to make The Big Help Out a provincial event and so is inviting each diocese to take part, in whatever way they can, to celebrate and encourage volunteering.

You can:

- Organise events on the day

- Share other opportunities to volunteer
 - Register your events on The Big Help Out website <https://thebighelpout.org.uk>
-

The Big Help Out - Briefing Webinar

We are pleased to invite you to an online faith briefing for the Big Help Out on **Thursday 30th March** from 1.00 - 1.45pm.

The webinar will be an excellent opportunity for faith organisations, communities and activists to find out more about the Big Help Out and how they can get involved. Attendees will also hear about exceptional volunteering case studies from different faith communities.

Speakers will include:

- Brendan Cox, Co-Founder of Together Coalition
- Phil Champain, Director of The Faith & Belief Forum
- *Representatives of different faith groups/ charities to talk about their work with volunteers*

To register for the event, please click on the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/coronation-briefing-for-faith-communities-the-big-help-out-tickets-588234042857>

Come and Sing Compline



**COME AND SING
COMPLINE**

AT NEWPORT CATHEDRAL
**Tuesday of Holy
Week,**
4th April 7.30pm

**Address given by the Dean,
the Very Revd Ian Black**

Rehearsal 6-7pm
Tea/coffee 7pm
Service 7.30pm

All welcome to come and sing

For more information / to register interest /
to request a copy of the music in advance,
Please contact the Director of Music:
Emma Gibbins
emmagibbins1978@gmail.com



Newport
Cathedral
Cadeirlan
Casnewydd

Churches Unlocked Festival

In June last year, Llandaff Diocese ran the first 'Churches Unlocked'. This is a summer festival supporting churches in opening to visitors for things such as tours, family events, flower festivals, bell-ringing, music, concerts, family history and themed exhibitions.

In 2023 Monmouth Diocese will be taking part too with 10 churches involved.

Archdeacon Ian said, 'Our church buildings represent a massive treasure but they are too often closed, other than for services or occasional other events. As we increasingly focus on being outward looking in mission, we also have an opportunity to extend an invitation for people to come and look around our buildings, and to become

inspired by the history as well as the generations that have worshipped in those buildings before us.

But it's also an opportunity to show how we are telling the Christian story today and our buildings are important tools in doing that. I have no doubt that Churches Unlocked will be a success for those taking part from Monmouth Diocese and we look forward to it growing in years to come.'



The aims of the project are:

- To **raise awareness** of our church buildings, celebrating not only their heritage but also what they offer to their local communities today
- To **encourage** churches to be open and welcoming to visitors, with a focus on those churches not usually open other than for worship
- To **engage** with those who may not attend church but have an interest in heritage/community history/architecture

Results in Llandaff were very encouraging, with over 3000 people either participating in events or visiting the 10 churches involved. Church organisers were overwhelmingly positive in their feedback describing the experience variously as *'inspiring, emotional, good for morale, celebrated local identity, community involvement and confidence building'*. There were many comments about how the festival enabled connections to be made or to be re-established post-Covid with schools, local people, or former members of the congregation.

Churches Unlocked 2023 will run from **Saturday 3rd - Sunday 11th June** this year. More details of the churches involved and events happening will be available soon.

Count on Nature



Churches across Wales can now register to participate in Churches Count on Nature, an annual scheme where people visit churchyards and record the plant and animal species they encounter.

The biodiversity survey, supported by environmental charities A Rocha UK and Caring for God's Acre, as well as the Church in Wales and the Church of England, will take place from **June 3-11**, at the same time as Churches Unlocked.

The data is used to determine where rare and endangered species are located in the country and to aid churches of all denominations increase biodiversity on their land for the enrichment of the environment and local communities.

Churches Count on Nature is part of Love Your Burial Ground Week, which is open to anyone with a love of nature. Churches are being encouraged to connect with local schools, wildlife groups, and those who may not have visited before to discover their churchyards.

The Archbishop of Wales, Andrew John, appealed to those who look after churchyards, *“to join in Churches Count on Nature during Love Your Burial Ground week in June. Invite the whole community, young and experienced, and make a day of it – it’s an easy, free and fun way to show just how much we care for God’s creation.”*

Register your church for this summer’s Churches Count on Nature at this link: caringforgodsacre.org.uk/getinvolved/event-register

Services & Resources



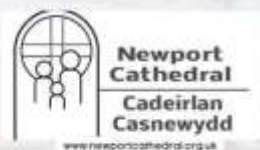
Food-related Outreach

Information has been put together to assist community organisations and charities who distribute food for free, such as Foodbanks.

To read more, please download this document: [Community Food](#)



Join the service from the Cathedral this Sunday at 10:30am [here](#).



Holy Week & Easter April 2023

**Monday 3rd 7.30pm – Reflection on the Cross
by Canon Andrew Lightbown**

Tuesday 4th 7.30pm – Compline & Address by The Dean

Wednesday 5th 7.30pm – Holy Week Reflection by Ven Stella Bailey

Maundy Thursday 7.30pm – Choral Eucharist & Watch until 10.00pm

Good Friday 2.00pm – Liturgy of the Cross

Holy Saturday

**10.30am - Come Walk With Me - Divine Absence -
meet at Tredegar House Cafe**

8.30pm – Easter Vigil & Choral Eucharist
(Any Ministry Areas who so wish may bring their new
Paschal Candles for blessing during the service.)

Easter Sunday

8.00am – Holy Eucharist

10.30am – Easter Day Choral Eucharist -The Bishop

4.00pm – Choral Evensong

ESGOBAETH MYNWY - GWASANAETHAU CYMRAEG

Ebrill 18
April 18
Dydd Mawrth / *Tuesday*

10.30
am / y.b.

St John,
Maindee, Casnewydd
/
Newport

Ewcharist:
St. Mark
Eucharist:
St
Mark

Mai 13
May 13
Dydd Sadwrn / Saturday

9.30
am / y.b.

St Thomas
Trefynwy
/ Monmouth

Ewcharist
Eucharist

Mehefin 13
June 13
Dydd Mawrth
/ Tuesday

7.00
pm / y.h.

St Mary
Magwyr /
Magor

Ewcharist
Eucharist

Am fwy o wybodaeth cysylltwch â Ruth Willis: ruth_willis05@hotmail.com
For further information contact Ruth Willis: ruth_willis05@hotmail.com

Vacancies

Team Vicar - Islwyn MA (part-time)

Is God calling you to South Wales and the welcoming communities of the Valleys?
Will you thrive working as part of a supportive team?
Would you like to explore new ways to connect with your community?
Can you enable others in discovering and using their gifts for God?
Then join us to 'Live out a Love without Limit'.

Based in the area of Blackwood and the surrounding communities you will be part of the Ministry Team covering the Islwyn Ministry Area with a focus on Oakdale and Fleur-de-lis.

We hope for a Priest who will:

- *Inspire us to join God in mission*
- *Lead worship in a variety of styles*
- *Be a builder of community relationships*
- *Engage with and Support people of all ages*
- *Take Risks for God*

If this is you... we would very much like to hear from you.

For an informal conversation please contact The Venerable Stella Bailey,
Archdeacon of the Gwent Valleys on
07741 661154 or archdeacon.gwentvalleys@churchinwales.org.uk

We are striving to be an inclusive diocese and would welcome applications from

all suitably qualified clerics.

Closing date for applications: **Monday 10th April 2023**

Application form and full profile available at

<https://monmouth.churchinwales.org.uk/en/about-us/jobs/team-vicar-islwyn-ma/>

Applications should be submitted by email to:

archdeacon.gwentvalleys@churchinwales.org.uk

For a downloadable and printable version of this email please click [here](#).

You can find the one-stop-shop for all you need to know and this week's updates [here](#).



Diocese of Monmouth · Esgobaeth Mynwy

Diocesan Office, 64 Caerau Road, Newport, NP20 4HJ
01633 267490 · monmouth.churchinwales.org.uk

Monmouth Diocesan Board of Finance is a company registered in England and Wales.
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